

REMARKS

[0003] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1-45 are presently pending. Claims amended herein are 1, 10, 19, and 28. Claims withdrawn or cancelled herein are 6-9, 15-18, 24-27, and 29-30. New claims added herein are 31-45.

Statement of Substance of Interview

[0004] The Examiner graciously talked with me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—on May 16, 2007. Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's willingness to talk. Such willingness is invaluable to both of us in our common goal of an expedited prosecution of this patent application.

[0005] During the interview I proposed several possible clarifying amendments that incorporated subject matter indicated to be allowable in the last office action. During the interview, I understood the Examiner to tentatively agree that the independent claims would be patentable over the cited art if amended as discussed during the interview. However, the Examiner indicated that he would need to review the proposed amendments and new claims more carefully and/or do another search, and requested that the proposed amendments be presented in writing.

[0006] Applicant herein amends the claims in the manner discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reasons discussed during the interview.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0007] If the Examiner's reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0008] Please contact me or my assistant to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for us, I welcome your call to either of us as well. Our contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

Claim Amendments and Additions

[0009] Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1, 10, 19 and 28 herein.

[0010] Furthermore, Applicant adds new claims 31-45 herein, which are directed towards the indicated allowable subject matter of previous claim 8. These new claims are fully supported by Application and therefore do not constitute new matter.

Formal Matters

[0011] This section addresses any formal matters (e.g., objections) raised by the Examiner.

Abstract

[0012] The Examiner objects to the Abstract for being unclear and non-concise. Herein, Applicant amends the Abstract, as shown above, to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Specification

[0013] The Examiner objects to paragraphs [0001] and [0002] of the specification for referring to another application by attorney docket number. Herein, Applicant amends these paragraphs, as shown above, to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Drawings

[0014] The Examiner objects to Fig. 1 for including the reference character 36'. Herewith, Applicant submits replacement drawings to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Substantive Matters

Claim Rejections under § 112

[0015] Claims 7-9 and 25-27 have been rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7-9 and 25-27 have been canceled and incorporated into their respective independent claims, thus the § 112, second paragraph, at moot.

Claim Rejections under § 101

[0016] Claims 1-9 have been rejected as being directed to a process consisting solely of operation manipulating a set of mathematical entities. Claims 1 has been amended to include the element that the method is a method for "displaying all-frequency relighting of computer-generated graphic objects" and that the method includes "displaying the computer graphic objects". The Applicant believes that this amendment addresses the concerns of the Examiner, and that further the amended claim now claims subject matter capable of producing a useful, concrete and tangible result.

[0017] Claims 10-18 and 28-30 have been rejected as being directed to encompass a computer program not technologically embodied to enable the functionality to be realized. The applicant proposes amending paragraph [0018] of the specification in the following manner:

[0004] While it is envisioned that numerous embodiments of the present invention are particularly

well-suited for computerized systems, nothing in this document is intended to limit the invention to such embodiments. On the contrary, as used herein the term "computer system" is intended to encompass any and all devices capable of storing and processing information and/or capable of using the stored information to control the behavior or execution of the device itself, regardless of whether such devices are electronic or mechanical~~[, logical, or virtual in nature]~~.

[0018] The applicant believes that this proposed amendment to the specification would be sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 10-18 and 28-30. Additionally, claims 10 and 28 have been amended to include elements that clarify that the claims claim patent eligible subject matter that is capable of producing a useful, concrete and tangible result.

[0019] Claims 19-27 have been rejected for reciting a computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions that includes non-functional descriptive material encoded on a computer readable medium. Claim 19 has been amended to claim, per the suggestion of the Examiner, that the computer-readable instructions are stored on the computer-readable medium. Claim 19 is now in proper form for allowance.

[0020] If the Examiner maintains the rejection of these claims, then the Applicant requests additional guidance as to what is necessary to overcome the rejection.

Claim Rejections under §§ 102 and/or 103

[0021] Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, 14, 19-21, 23 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peter-Pike Sloan, Jan Kautz, John Snyder, "Precomputed Radiance Transfer for Real-Time Rendering in Dynamic, Low Frequency Lighting Environments," July 2002, ACM Transactions on Graphics, Vol. 21, No. 3, p. 527-536 (Sloan et al) in view of Cass Everitt, Mark J. Kilgard, "Practical and Robust Stenciled Shadow Volumes for Hardware-Accelerated Rendering," March 12, 2002, Technical Report, NVIDIA Cooperation, Published on-line at developer.nvidia.com (Everitt et al).

[0022] Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19, 22, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,664,962 to Komsthoeft et al.

[0023] Claims 6, 9, 15, 18, 24, 27, 29 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloan et al in view of Everitt et al in view of Sameer Agarwal, Ravi Ramamoorthi, Serge Belongie, and Henrik Wann Jensen, "Structured Importance Sampling of Environment Maps," July 2003, ACM Transactions on Graphics, Vol. 22, No. 3, p. 605-612 (Agarwal et al).

[0024] In light of the amendments presented herein and the decisions/agreements reached during the above-discussed Examiner interview, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot as the proposed amendments incorporate allowable subject matter into the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

New Claims

[0025] Claims 31-45 are proposed new claims. Claims 31 is independent claim 1 that incorporates the elements of canceled claim 8 instead of claim 7. Claim 36 is independent claim 10 that incorporates the elements of canceled claim 17. Claim 41 is similar in scope to that of independent claim 19 that incorporates the element of canceled claim 26. As the Examiner has indicated that these dependent claims would be allowable if written in independent form, the applicant respectfully suggests that these claims are now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

[0026] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call/email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 5.22.07

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